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The Ideal

Graduate Study Institution.

WHAT GERMANY HAS DONE.

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THE IDEAL GRADUATE STUDY INSTITUTION.

WHAT GERMANY HAS DONE.

I.—THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN GERMANY.

It is the doctor's task to carry out measures for the preservation of health; the mental and physical labour thus demanded of him is given to serve the well-being of the community.—*Excellenz von Bergmann.*

On May 18, 1900, there was organised in Berlin one of the most important committees for the promotion of post-graduate study in medicine that is to be found anywhere in Europe or America. This committee, which was called into being by a group of enthusiastic members of the medical profession who received the warm and active support of the Prussian Minister for Culture and Education, has since that time done such excellent work and established so excellent a system of graduate study in the whole of the German Empire that it may well serve as a model for other countries. Thus a brief outline of its history and the great progress it has made since its inception must be of interest to everyone who is concerned in the future of graduate study. For the details that follow we are indebted to the courtesy of the Honorary Secretary of the committee, the Director of the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus, Professor Dr. Kutner.

The Central Committee for the Promotion of Graduate Study in Medicine (*Das Zentral Komit e f r das  rztliche*

Fortbildungswesen *) was formed in order to organise graduate study in Prussia on a sound and businesslike basis, and from its inception two main objects were held in view. These were—

1. To enable practitioners to become acquainted with the advance in medicine and its special branches, and to keep in touch with the practical work which such advance necessitates, by offering them the means and the opportunity for special work and progressive development; and
2. To enable practitioners to increase their knowledge, and thereby to augment their usefulness, without the sacrifice of too much time or money.

In order to achieve these desirable objects in a manner most beneficent to general practitioners the committee recognised from the very first that whatever courses or opportunities were to be offered to practitioners these should be available free of charge, so that no member should be put to any expense, even a nominal one, in attending them; that the courses should be held in the immediate neighbourhood of the practitioner's home, and finally that they should be held at times when it was most convenient for the majority of practitioners to attend them. Here at the very start the committee formulated an ideal to which, it is satisfactory to add, it has steadily adhered. This ideal is that the graduate study of the practitioner is not a matter of weeks or months, but a life-long process. The medical man must remain a student if he wishes to keep abreast of modern advance and modern thought, but it is too much, and in fact entirely unnecessary, to expect

* The English equivalent does not possess the happy terseness of the German "Fortbildungswesen," but adequately describes the object of the committee. The real founder of the committee was the late Professor von Bergmann, who, together with several Berlin medical men, organised in 1900 a Society for the Holding of Courses for Practising Physicians, which subsequently adopted its present title on the recommendation of Ministerial Director, Dr. Althoff.

him to devote a certain specified time daily or yearly to the scientific study of new developments. The ordinary practitioner is much too busy a man to wade through special monographs and transactions, and specialism has narrowed so greatly of late years, and within its limits each speciality has built up so many vast structures, that it is well nigh impossible for him to grasp the essentials of every new step in medicine. Yet, as Professor von Bergmann so aptly expressed it in the sentence that serves as text to this article, the welfare of the community, no less than the interest of the profession, demands that the practitioner should be acquainted with the recent advances in science and that he should follow the development of his art and science. It was necessary, therefore, to give the practitioner a helping hand, and the State, recognising the importance of the matter, stepped in and lent the movement its cordial support. The ideal, accepted by the State as well as by the profession in Germany, has never been lost sight of, and the result is that graduate study in Germany, so far as German practitioners are concerned, is organised on the soundest basis and on lines which leave little, if anything, to be desired.

It is interesting to notice how the committee achieved this gratifying result. It admitted, from the commencement, that it is wrong and unjust to expect qualified men to resume their places among the unqualified students in order to acquire further knowledge. Many a practitioner who would willingly join a graduate class shrinks, from motives which will be appreciated by every graduate, from joining a "mixed class" of the type which obtains in England. Equally was it evident that teachers who possess a reputation as student teachers will not necessarily do for qualified men; the choice of instructors was, therefore, one of the points which the committee had to consider. Finally, there was the question of time and place. In the large University towns, where clinics and laboratories

existed, special arrangements had to be made in order to keep to the ideal of pure graduate classes. All this demanded much careful thought and consideration. The magnificent result of which the committee can be proud to-day was not obtained in a day, but it was obtained and it exists as an example of what may be done elsewhere by organisation and systematisation.

The first duty of the committee was to organise the teaching staff and the clinical material, and in this it had the earnest help of the professors and directors of the large clinics and hospitals. Nor was the movement confined to University towns. The ideal was to establish branches in every city that possessed the clinical material, to found centres for instruction at least in each district. At present there are such branches, at which regular graduate courses are given under the auspices of the Central Committee in no less than 27 Prussian and 28 other German towns. Every year the committee publishes a report which shows a gradual but regular increase in the number of branch centres and in the number of graduate students attending these courses. Nor is this all. These reports also furnish German practitioners with valuable information concerning graduate courses in towns outside the German Empire, and the committee serves as an information bureau as well. Yet another and more important result which has been achieved is the establishment of so-called

MEDICAL ACADEMIES.

These have been established in non-University towns which possess a large amount of available clinical material, and are therefore specially suited for graduate study. The academies at Cologne, Düsseldorf, and the excellent branch at Hamburg, at which centres it is a well-known fact that the best post-graduate courses are given, have been established mainly through the activity of the Central Committee. These academies are in direct connection with the

Central Committee. Their medical staffs are connected with the local branch for post-graduate study; their directors are *ipso facto* members of the Central Committee, which has the right to nominate a representative on the board of management of each institution. The result of this triple connection has been a most harmonious co-operation between these institutions and the Central Committee.

The Central Committee, as at present constituted, consists of the Honorary President, Prince von Bülow; three honorary members; of an executive; of extraordinary members representing the Governments of Baden, Bavaria, Saxony, and Wurtemberg; and of ordinary members representing the city of Berlin, the medical societies of Berlin, the committee for the promotion of graduate study in dentistry, the Kultus ministerium, the medical faculty of the University, the committee for medical "Studienreisen," a director of a municipal hospital in Berlin, a director of a non-municipal city hospital, the medical directorate of the Charité, and a representative of the medical profession in the province of Brandenburg; and in addition the presidents of the several local branches. The office of the committee is Luisenplatz 2-4, Berlin, N.W.

When the committee was formed post-graduate courses were only given at irregular intervals at nine centres. To-day regular courses are given at no less than 46 centres in every possible subject, directly or indirectly under the auspices of the committee, and for the most part free. These courses are open to every German practitioner, and are practical and theoretical. Having, through the courtesy of the demonstrators, had an opportunity of attending several of them we can speak from experience of their usefulness. They are in every case arranged to suit the practising physician, to supply his wants and meet his wishes, and, beyond paying two marks as a membership fee, the member who attends such courses has absolutely no ex-

penses, even where the course demands a considerable outlay in instruments and material. The immense educative value of these courses can hardly be over-estimated, and the fact that membership is in every case full shortly after the announcement of each course shows very well how popular they are. From time to time lists of such courses are published. The committee has its own organ—with which we hope to deal later on—and has worked hard and successfully to bring all these opportunities to the notice of practitioners in Germany.

How is it all done? The question of ways and means is always an interesting one, and in this connection it is doubly so. The work has demanded sacrifices and it has cost money. For the first the committee and its supporters have done their share. The professors and teachers have thrown themselves heart and soul into the work, and have had their reward in the success that has attended their efforts. The State and private munificence have seen to the expense, and in many cases the practitioners who have established a local centre have borne their share, though not as members of a course but as private individuals. One of the most remarkable results of the pioneer work of the committee, indeed, has been the enthusiasm and the spirit of emulation it has aroused in other parts of Germany. Practitioners have attended courses away from their sphere of activity, and liked these so much that they have clamoured for and obtained the establishment of local branches. These branches have been encouraged by the Central Committee, which, helped by a donation from the Ministry for Education, has formed the magnificent

STATE COLLECTION OF DEMONSTRATION SPECIMENS.

Such is the official title of this interesting department, which was formed with the object of providing the various local centres (four only of which at present possess adequate collections of pathological interest) with material for

demonstrations. The primary cost of the arrangement was borne by the Kultus ministerium, but the collection has been greatly increased and its usefulness added to by the gifts of private institutions and the donations of individual benefactors. Thus the late Professor Lassar bequeathed the unrivalled private collection of wax models illustrating diseases of the skin, Dr. Siemerling, of Kiel, presented a representative collection of nerve specimens, while from various other sources came valuable additions. A fair number of necessary models and specimens had to be purchased, and as the collection stands at present it may be looked upon as one of the finest and most comprehensive of its kind. It comprises anatomical preparations, general and special ; pathological-anatomical preparations, general and special ; microscopical preparations, divided into (*a*) general, (*b*) special, (*c*) pathological, (*d*) clinical, and (*e*) bacteriological : plastic representations or wax models representing (*a*) acute infections, (*b*) chronic exanthems and skin diseases, (*c*) parasitic and non-parasitic diseases, (*d*) eye diseases, (*e*) intestinal diseases ; plaster models divided into (*a*) anatomical, (*b*) genito-urinary, (*c*) skin, and (*d*) throat diseases (among these may be seen the model of the laryngeal cancer of the Emperor Frederick) ; and papier maché preparations divided into (*a*) physiological and (*b*) surgical ; books and engravings, photographs, charts and drawings, divided into 27 groups and comprising every possible subject of interest to the physician—a most valuable, and, in some respects, a unique collection, containing as it does the valuable and interesting private collection of medical miscellanea of Professor Hollander ; lantern slides—a special department with a very complete collection—and other transparencies ; stereoscopic preparations and apparatus ; microscopic apparatus ; phantoms for demonstration purposes ; a very rich collection of kinematographic films, anatomical, physiological, pathological, and clinical, with spare apparatus ; and

finally, an equally fine collection of bacteriological cultures, permanencies, slides, and projection apparatus.

The collection is in daily use, not only in Berlin but throughout Germany, and if any proof of its usefulness is wanted the Director's day-book, with its large number of entries, is sufficient to show that it is rapidly becoming very popular. Every teacher, every professor or privat-docent who gives a course, whether to graduates or to students, can avail himself of this collection. Let us imagine, for example, that the doctors of a little South German town wish for a course in diseases of the eye. There is, perhaps, one of them who knows his eyework well and who is able to give this course, but under usual circumstances the clinical material available is far too small to permit of regular study. So there comes an application to the Director, "Please send, by return post, models and specimens to illustrate course of ophthalmology." These are sent at once, packed, registered, and catalogued, with histories and full particulars. The applicant pays cost of carriage and insurance and undertakes to return the specimens as soon as he has finished the course. So, too, in other departments. A local doctor is asked to give a course on first aid to the senior pupils of the gymnasium, to deliver a lecture on tuberculosis, or to demonstrate the advisability of vaccination. He, too, sends to the Director and avails himself of the magnificent collection, and is thereby enabled to illustrate his lecture or course in a very efficient and comparatively inexpensive manner. There are models here that have travelled all over Germany, doing useful work wherever they went, and the practical advantages of such a collection on such lines are incalculable. Its educative value is enormous, not merely from the point of view of graduate study, but equally so from that of the popular lecturer. The doctor can do much to influence local thought and opinion in matters of hygiene and public health by means of occasional public and popular lectures. Such occa-

sional excursions will be of value to him as well as to his hearers, and many practitioners will take a larger interest in what is as much their duty as the writing of prescriptions if they were certain of such help as this collection assures the German practitioner. In conclusion, it is merely necessary to add that a full and detailed catalogue of the collection has been printed, which is forwarded on application to every practitioner in Germany. In special cases, the Director assures us, arrangements can be made to enable lecturers outside Germany to avail themselves of the collection as well.

Another feature of the work of the committee has been the development of post-graduate courses in dentistry. These courses are exceedingly popular and their educative value is daily becoming more apparent. Not the least remarkable of the results which have been obtained by this effective organisation is the almost universal recognition in the German Empire of the necessity for such graduate courses, and the interest which has been awakened by the labours of the committee in the profession generally and in the several States. The latter have supported the movement in a most exemplary and praiseworthy manner, and it is not too much to declare that the Central Committee at present is a national asset of the German Empire which does as good work, and is claiming as effective support and obtaining it, as the various Universities that cater for the student and for the medical practitioner up to the time that he is launched into practice.

II.—THE “KAISERIN FRIEDRICH ENDOWMENT.”

The rapid development of the work of the Central Committee, the increase of its activity, and concomitantly, the enlargement of the State Collection of Demonstration Specimens, necessitated a better organisation and a larger and more permanent central domicile than the Committee possessed. The Committee was already in receipt of an annual grant from the Kultus ministerium, and it was decided, in consultation with the ministerial representatives, and upon the instigation of Professor Kutner, to establish a bureau and a permanent home for the collection, and in view of the interest which her late Majesty the Dowager Empress Friedrich had shown in the movement for the promotion of graduate study, it was unanimously decided that this building should be called the “Kaiserin Friedrich Haus.” Early in March 1903 the president of the Committee, the late Excellenz Professor von Bergmann, was received in audience by his Majesty the Emperor, and presented the plan of the proposed building with a short exposition of what was suggested. His Majesty was graciously pleased to approve of the specifications, and a few days later, in a letter to Professor von Bergmann, formally accepted the patronage of the institution and expressed his gratification at the desire of the Committee that it should be associated with the name of the late Dowager Empress. On March 7, 1903, the Committee met at the Kultus ministerium and discussed the question of ways and means. It was resolved not to formulate a general appeal, as had been proposed at first, in order to obtain funds for the building and endowment of the institute, but to work privately, and, as a primary essential, to form a strong building committee consisting of those present with power to co-

opt more members. Professor Dr. Althoff stated that he had already been promised a sum of £10,000 by a friend in aid of the building fund, and, cheered by this encouragement, the Committee set to work actively and at once. There were two examples to encourage it further. Thus, in America, the New York Post-Graduate Medical School owes its existence to private munificence, while in Russia the fine institutes for post-graduate study associated with the name of the Grand Duchess Helena Paulowna, at St. Petersburg and Moscow, had also been founded, and to a large extent endowed, by private benefactors. It is true, these institutions were not planned on quite so large a scale as this proposed Kaiserin Friedrich Haus, which was to serve not only as a monument to the generosity and interest of the late Dowager Empress but which was to be worthy of the large organisation which had been developed during the past few years and worthy the dignity of the medical profession in the German Empire. But what had been done in America and Russia could surely be rivalled in Germany, unless the medical profession and its friends were too lukewarm to make the attempt, and that no member of the Committee was unpatriotic enough to believe. The result has proved that this trust of the Committee in the solidarity and active interest of the medical profession was amply justified. By the end of May 1903—thus barely three months after the initial meeting—more than £50,000 had been subscribed, and with this it was decided to start building operations. Subscriptions came from all quarters, and it is satisfactory to note that those who responded best to the appeal (which, in accordance with the original resolution, was made privately) were the members of the medical profession, though the large manufacturing firms and several wealthy laymen contributed generously, while his Majesty the Emperor showed his active interest in the movement by becoming one of the donors to the

fund. With the approval of the Emperor the Committee decided to use the money so collected to found the "Kaiserin Friedrich Endowment for the Promotion of Graduate Study in Medicine," the objects of which were primarily to build a central domicile for the State Collection, which would at the same time serve as a central bureau for the organisation. As formulated in the original "charter" the Endowment is constituted as follows:

"It is under the direct patronage of the Minister for Education, and its management is vested in a curatorium composed of ordinary and honorary members. Each donor to the fund (by donors being meant those who have subscribed 10,000 marks towards the endowment) is an ordinary member, and a list of such donors is inscribed on a marble tablet in the hall of the instit'ue. The other ordinary members of the curatorium consist of the executive of the Central Committee, two representatives of the Minister for Education, and a representative of the University of Berlin. Honorary members are such persons as in the opinion of the curatorium may have worked in the interests of post-graduate study and by their writings or actions contributed to its advance and progress. From the members of the curatorium are chosen, every three years, a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. As at present constituted the chairman is Wirk. Geh. Rat. Dr. Von Bitter, the vice-chairman Geh. Kommerzienrat E. von Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, the secretary Professor Dr. R. Kutner, and the treasurer Consul-General R. von Mendelssohn. At present the only two honorary members are Dr. Studt, ex-Minister for Education. The general meeting of the curatorium takes place annually on the anniversary of the birthday of the late Dowager Empress Friedrich (November 21), when the annual report is presented." With this report we will deal later on.

Having formulated the rules and regulations, the com-

mittee, or, as one should now style it, the curatorium, proceeded to carry out the design. An excellent site was fortunately available, namely, a corner block on the Luisen platz, fronting the Platz itself and lying alongside Hannover Street. This, almost an ideal site, as it was central and close to the main hospitals, was acquired at a cost of 689,000 marks, and the building committee accepted the original plans which had been approved of by the Emperor. Building operations were commenced in July 1904, and in March 1906 the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus was formally opened. The total cost, including purchase of the original site, taxes, specifications, furniture, etc., was approximately £55,120. The surplus of the collected funds was used as the nucleus of a permanent endowment. A certain amount had been spared by the munificent donations of instruments, furniture and apparatus presented to the institution by various firms and private benefactors. Before proceeding to the detailed description of this interesting institution, it may be instructive to give a short account of the present financial position of the "Kaiscrin Friedrich Haus," and to show how it is kept up. The revenue of the institution is derived from four main sources, irrespective of occasional subscriptions and donations. These main sources are (1) the annual grant made to the institution for the upkeep of the State Collection by the Kultus ministerium; (2) the annual income derived from the rental of exhibition spaces in the permanent exhibition rooms; (3) rental accruing from occupied houses belonging to the institution on Hannover Street, standing on the block purchased and not used for the building, and (4) interest on the nucleus of the permanent endowment fund. From these sources the institution derives an average annual income of 43,000 marks, and as at present the annual expenditure is calculated at 40,000 marks the institution may be regarded as thoroughly successful from a financial point of view.

But financial success is not the only, nor indeed the main point that is necessary to ensure the complete success of such an undertaking. Were the interest of the mass of the profession wanting, the institution could not be said to be a success, and it is satisfactory to note that this interest is maintained and is daily increasing. The house on the Luisen platz is a centre for medical Germany. Once within its doors, the practitioner feels that he is in his own domain. This is his palace ; here lie his interests, here is the centre for his graduate study. To a very large extent this success is due to the unfailing courtesy and consideration of the staff. This institution, in fact, is more than German ; it is in a sense international. Go up to the bureau, no matter from what part of the world you come so long as you are a medical practitioner, you will be treated as a colleague and a brother, and patiently and impartially you will be informed of any course you may be interested in. The Committee is making strenuous efforts to render its information authentic and complete, and we would earnestly urge post-graduate institutions in England to enter into regular correspondence with the institution, to exchange information with it, and to become acquainted with its work. Only by so doing can we hope to reciprocate the services which the institution has rendered and is daily rendering to English and American graduates in Germany. With the development of the activities of the Committee it became desirable that the institution and especially the Central Committee should have an organ or journal of its own, in order to publish periodical lists of its courses, and so keep practitioners informed of the work that was being done on their behalf. The need for a paper, such as THE HOSPITAL, which should appeal in the first place to the busy general practitioner was felt, and in order to supply such an organ, the Committee started its monthly journal, which was soon expanded into a fortnightly. At

present this magazine possesses the largest circulation of any German medical paper. It is a thoroughly practical paper, appealing to the general practitioner, giving full information regarding the various courses, not only those under the auspices of the Committee, but those organised independently of it, and articles of general interest, abstract of post-graduate lectures, and accounts of foreign graduate courses.

The Committee has throughout received the cordial support of the medical profession, without which it could not have achieved this success. Not less warm and openly expressed has been the support accorded to it by the Emperor and by the State. His Majesty has, on more than one occasion, paid a visit to the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus, inspected the collections, and expressed his gratification at the good work that the Committee is doing, while the State is directly represented on the Curatorium, and by means of its annual contribution has as directly identified itself with the work of the Committee. Their Majesties King Edward and Queen Alexandra, on the occasion of their last visit to Germany, honoured the "Kaiserin Friedrich Haus" by a visit, and expressed to the management of the institution their enthusiastic appreciation of its merits and achievements.

III.—THE KAISERIN FRIEDRICH HAUS.

"'Tis a house indeed, a very palace for our designs."
Old Play.

The Kaiserin Friedrich Haus stands on the Luisenplatz, a quiet square just outside the rumble of Friedrichstrasse. Behind lies the maze of the Charité, a few hundred yards further on is the Augusta Hospital, close by are the Royal Clinics of Ziegelstrasse, and near at hand the Medical Jurisprudence Institution in Hannoverstrasse. Round the corner are the Veterinary College and the anatomical department, and equally close lie the various polyclinics. Trams pass the door bound for the large municipal hospitals, and the main stations for the overhead and the general railway lines are only a few minutes' walk away. A more central spot for the medical graduate it would be difficult to find in all Berlin.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

The accompanying elevation and ground plans give a good idea of the building as a whole, and it is only necessary to give a brief description of the main features. On the ground floor there are four large rooms devoted to the permanent exhibition. On the left, the first and second rooms are devoted to instruments, orthopædic apparatus, and surgical necessaries. The exhibits are in glass cases, legibly labelled and numbered, and on each cabinet lies the catalogue of the firm and such literature as exists on the exhibits. Here are models of every instrument practically of every German firm, and the visitor can spend a morning in instructive and enjoyable inspection. On the right are three correspondingly large rooms. The first is devoted to electro, mechanical, x-ray, and light apparatus; the other two to exhibits representing various chemical firms. Here are exposed all the latest therapeutical novelties, those varied new synthetic preparations which German chemists delight to pour upon the public. It would take up far too much

space to go into detail, and it would be invidious to single out any special cabinet for particular mention. Suffice it to say that here, as well as in the other rooms, the interests of the general practitioner are mainly kept in view. The permanent representative of the various firms, Herr August Matz, has his bureau in this part of the building, and is ever ready, willing, and able to explain the exhibits to professional visitors, to supply them with trial samples and with literature. Behind these rooms lies a large courtyard,



FIG 1.—FRONT ELEVATION.

and on the other side are the packing rooms for the use of the packers who have to look after the parcels for the loan collections.

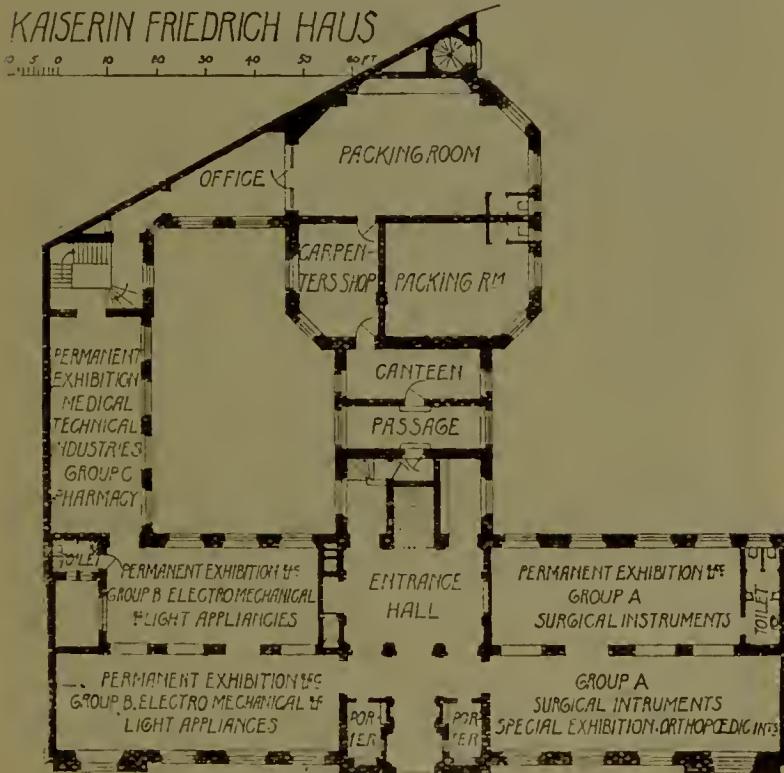
Returning to the front hall, the visitor ascends the broad flight of granite stairs and has an opportunity of admiring the simple yet effective entrance hall. On the first landing (Fig. II.) are the cloak-room, closets, and another large racking-room. On the first floor (Fig. III.), the ground plan of which is similar to that of the ground floor, there are on the left two large rooms again devoted to the

permanent exhibition. In the one is gathered a large collection of optical instruments, microscopes, cameras, plates, etc. In the second is an even more interesting exhibition showing the merits of the various bathing and health resorts, the various "baths" and mineral springs. There are albums of views, plaster models, geological charts, analytical tables, pamphlets, details—everything the practitioner can wish to guide him in making a choice as to the suitability of this or that "kurort" for his patient. On the right is a large reading-room, well supplied with papers (unfortunately no English professional journal exchanges as yet with the institution, and in the permanent exhibition also one misses English firms, though some other foreign firms are represented). It is intended to establish in this reading-room a model general practitioner's library, containing copies of every book of interest to the practising physician, exclusive entirely of students' text-books. A beginning has already been made, and it is satisfactory to note that the large publishing firms are interesting themselves in the matter. The educative value of such a model library would be as great as that of the permanent exhibition. Behind the reading-room is the directors' room. From the reading-room one enters the main bureau, where cards for admission to the courses are given out and where the practitioner can obtain all the information he desires. The other bureau rooms, secretary's office, office of the official journal, and clerks' rooms are here.

THE LECTURE ROOM.

Returning to the staircase one enters the large lecture-room or Hörsaal. This is a magnificent room, accommodating close upon 240 persons, excellently lighted and ventilated, and furnished with the best of modern contrivances. Thus the seats are of the well-known American "side table" model, the arm-rest serving as writing-desks, which can be raised or lowered at will. All the furnishing is of oak, and the seats are comfortable and broad. By

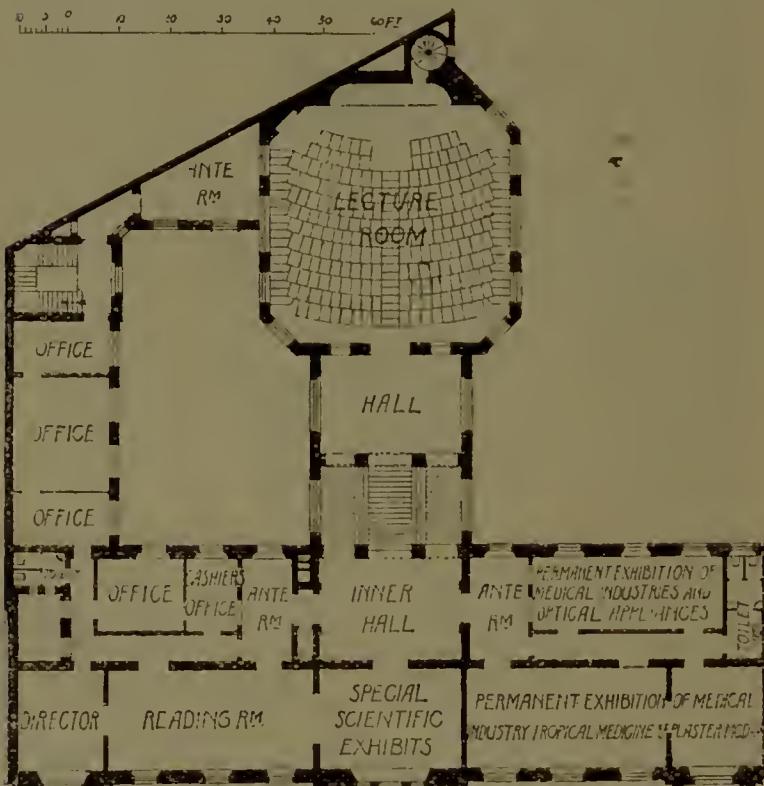
pressing a button the lecturer can at will darken the whole room by means of electrically moved screens, which descend over the windows. Artificial lighting is provided for by a large number of centrally and side placed electric



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

lamps. When all are lit the room is brilliantly lighted. On the lecture stage is a large plaster screen, over which a blackboard can be lowered for demonstration purposes. An up-to-date epidiascope, by means of which it is possible to throw on to the screen an enlargement of any

ordinary picture or photograph, is here, the gift of the original makers, Carl Zeiss, Jena. This room is in constant use for courses, lectures, demonstrations, etc., and its



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

acoustic properties are excellent, making it one of the finest lecture-rooms we have yet seen.

THE LOAN COLLECTION.

On the third floor are the rooms for the State collection of specimens for demonstration purposes, which are loaned out to lecturers for demonstrations. The

collection of wax models is one of the best in Europe and is daily being added to, the institution possessing its own modeller. Here is gathered together everything that one can desire for demonstration purposes, and space alone forbids us detailing the various excellent arrangements which clamour for the visitors' undivided attention at every step. The excellent collection illustrating the history of medicine, of which the nucleus was collected by Professor Hollander, is here, and the visitor can spend a day in viewing it. The collection of old Roman surgical implements, the armamentarium of the early German military surgeons, and the interesting collection of old prints and drawings, caricatures, and engravings of medical interest are particularly worth noticing. Of these we hope to give a fuller account in another article. Suffice it here to say that the institution is endeavouring to secure a complete collection of such interesting specimens, and to take photographs and make lantern-slides of all these exhibits for the benefit of lecturers who wish to demonstrate on medical history. A fairly complete catalogue has already been printed, and several lots of diapositives are available for loan purposes. Equally interesting, and of perhaps greater educative and practical value, is the collection of exhibits illustrating the nursing of the sick. In this there are models of bedsteads and bedding, night lights, arrangements for saving labour in wards, for sick-room cookery, for general nursing and for ambulance work. These models, like all the rest of the exhibits in the State collection, are also available for loan purposes and are frequently used for demonstrations at branch centres.

THE LABORATORIES.

On the top floor are the working rooms, in which practical courses are held, and here one is at once struck with the thoroughness with which every detail has been considered, and with the excellent results that have been obtained. The lavatory accommodation is thoroughly satisfactory and

efficient, and easy access is obtained to the rooms by means of the automatic electric lift with which the building is provided. There are two large laboratories, in each of which courses are held daily at times to suit the members, who are all general practitioners engaged in practice in Berlin or its suburbs. The first laboratory is used for pathological and microscopical work, and is arranged for a membership of twenty in each course. Each member of the course has his own bench, with revolving seat, drawers, and slide cabinet.

The lamps used are not the ordinary electric light which is particularly trying to the eyes, but a special model, designed by Dr. Lowin, and specially made for the institution. In this model gas mantles are used, and the light given is steady, clear, and very well suited for microscopic work. Here, too, is a projection apparatus for demonstration purposes, and an arrangement for automatically darkening the room, similar to that which exists in the large Hörsaal. As an illustration of the thoroughness with which the institution adheres to its ideal to make the courses free to practitioners, it may be mentioned that every member is supplied free of charge with a complete microscopic outfit, Zeiss instrument, with two ordinary and an oil immersion objective, slides, staining reagents, and all necessary addenda. These outfits, of course, belong to the institute, and are returned when the course is completed. In the adjoining laboratory for bacteriological work, the arrangements are equally thorough. One need only mention the fact that no taps are provided on the benches (to obviate the injudicious washing of slides and the escape of culture media into the general drains). Here is found a specially-constructed electrical centrifuge with glycerine speed indicator. Attached is the demonstrator's private room; then come a washing room, an incubation room, a room for special experimental work, the workshop of the waxwork modeller, and the lavatories. On the other side is a large Röntgen-ray room,

replete with all the latest apparatus, and with a small developing and dark room attached. Courses are given here, and are very popular. The outfit is one of the best in Berlin, and the photographs obtained, both by the direct and by the "relief" methods are excellent. Behind this is a large, airy, well-lighted photographic studio, with apparatus for taking cinematographic films. Attached to it is a copying room, and a dark room with an automatic lighting arrangement by means of which the operator can obtain red, yellow, green, violet, or white light at will. A large amount of work is done here, especially in cinematographic photography, for the value of the cinematograph for demonstration purposes is fully recognised by the Central Committee, and both films and instruments are frequently loaned to branch centres. As an example of the value of such demonstrations, the recent films showing the gait in various forms of spastic paralysis may be mentioned.

This rapid outline of the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus will suffice to give the reader a general idea of the institution. What it cannot give is the impression which a personal inspection of the whole makes on the visitor. There is nothing cheap or shoddy, for it is recognised that in such things true economy lies in purchasing the best apparatus and the most durable materials. From an architectural point of view the building is almost ideal; from the demonstrator's and student's point of view it is really ideal. It is a pleasure to work in these laboratories, as it is an enjoyment to spend a morning in the exhibition rooms. Anyone, in fact, who desires a practical illustration of the ideal graduate place of study, should visit this institution and spend a day in becoming acquainted with the system on which it is worked and the practical usefulness of its methods. He will find no more courteous cicerone than the director, and will return from his visit, as we returned, with a feeling that here at least is something which is worth imitating on this side of the Channel.

IV.—CONCLUSIONS AND THE MORAL.

In the preceding articles we have briefly sketched the rise and development of an organisation which, although not the oldest* post-graduate study association in Europe, must yet be considered as undoubtedly the best and most complete. We have thought it advisable to do so, because the Central Committee for the Promotion of Graduate Study in Prussia appears to us to have solved the problem of graduate study, and to have set about the work of organising such study in an ideal manner which is in every way worthy of imitation. Let us shortly recapitulate what that ideal consists of and what the means are by which it is carried out.

The main features of graduate study as carried on under the auspices of the Central Committee are that the courses are (1) both practical and theoretical, comprising all subjects of interest to the general practitioner and calculated to further his knowledge; (2) free; (3) given at times convenient for general practitioners engaged in private practice to attend; (4) and at places close to their sphere of practice; (5) with a membership limited to qualified men engaged in general practice. In addition, there is (6) a central main institute that serves as a bureau for information, as a domicile for special courses, and as a general centre for the whole movement.

1. The courses are practical and theoretical, and are given all the year round. Subjects are chosen of practical interest: the special work, of interest to the man with a hobby, is not made paramount, although practitioners can always obtain a course in some special and out-of-the-way subject. The theoretical courses, in the shape of lectures

* The honour of having started the first post-graduate institution must belong, *mirabile dictu*, to the little-known and from a medical point of view interesting country Russia. At St. Petersburg exists the fine Helena Paulowna Post-Graduate Institution, founded in 1875, of which we hope to give a full description in a future issue.—ED. THE HOSPITAL.

and demonstrations, are unlimited so far as membership is concerned. Practical work is done in small batches, which allows of individual assistance by the demonstrators and prevents crowding. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact that both special, practical, and theoretical courses are given by professors who are experts in their subjects, not by young docentes, who, however able to teach students, are hardly the men to lead a class of qualified men. One of the finest features of the organisation is the fact that men who have a world-wide reputation have come forward and volunteered to give up several hours a week for the benefit of their colleagues in general practice. Thus during the present year such courses were given by Professors von Renvers ("Novelties in Medical Diagnosis of Interest to the Practitioner"); Israels ("Points in Pathological Anatomy"); Körte ("Surgical Diagnosis"); Jansen ("Diseases of the Ear"); Silex ("Diseases of the Eyes"), and Eulenberg ("Mental Maladies in Private Practice"). The practical work, with demonstrations, is made interesting by means of the fine collection of demonstration specimens and the excellent apparatus with which the laboratories are fitted.

2. The courses are free; all that the practitioner has to pay is a "card fee" of two marks, which covers expenses of printing and secretarial work. Beyond this he has absolutely no expenses, except his personal outlay in train fares. Apparatus, specimens, and the necessary outfit for each course are provided by the institution free of charge.

3. The hours for the courses are arranged to suit the convenience of members. At the first meeting of the class the professor or demonstrator suggests the time that would suit him, and invites suggestions from the class. These suggestions, often conflicting, are then amicably discussed, and a compromise arrived at which suits the majority. Here, as in other things, small sacrifices are inevitable, but the main sacrifice is usually on the part of the demonstrator.

4. The courses are held either at the Kaiserin Friedrich

Haus or, where clinical demonstrations are required, at the hospitals in the vicinity. The central position of the institution suits this arrangement admirably, and hitherto the directors of the large city hospitals have worked harmoniously with the institution and given every facility to the general practitioner.

5 and 6. The advantages of the points included under these paragraphs need not be elaborated, as they are obvious to everyone.

Such, then, is the work of the Central Committee, and the English graduate who becomes acquainted with it can only envy his German colleague the opportunities and facilities which it affords the latter. The question remains whether he cannot try to imitate the work and to bring about in England a similar organisation, a similar central bureau, and similar facilities for graduate study. Discussing the matter with Professor Kutner, we pointed out the fact that the Polyclinic in London already to some extent does the work that is done by the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus. At the same time, we could not help calling to mind the points on which we had already laid stress in discussing the limitations of that institution. We there drew attention to the fact that the Polyclinic student lacks the opportunity for actual ward and clinical work, that the fees are comparatively high, and that the institution cannot at present be looked upon as a thoroughly representative one. The good points in the Polyclinic system were thoroughly grasped by our German colleagues, who in particular expressed their admiration of the system that permits the practitioner bringing his private patient for combined consultation and demonstration—a system which it is hoped to introduce in the German institution at an early date. "Surely," remarked Professor Kutner to us, "it would not be difficult, in so rich and generous a country as England, which supports its main hospitals by voluntary contributions, surely it would not be difficult to have an organisation and a central institution similar to the one

here at Berlin and the institutions in Russia." It is a remark with which we heartily concur, and the success of the German movement should serve as an encouragement to those who look forward to the realisation of the hope that England in the near future may not be behind Germany and Russia in the development of graduate study in medicine.

At the International Medical Congress to be held at Budapest in 1909, an important resolution will be brought forward by the Directors of the German and Russian Post-Graduate Associations. This resolution will voice the desire, felt by all graduate students, that the facilities for the prosecution of graduate study should be international, not local merely. Medicine belongs not to one country or one race; it is for all humanity, and the internationalisation of graduate study, the regular exchange of literature, information, and lists of courses, which is at present done spasmodically and without system, will do more to promote the good feeling and common interests between medical colleagues in various countries than the holding of congresses which are attended by specialists only. In going round the permanent exhibition in the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus we regretted the absence of British manufactures, English books, and any sign of British activity in the general advance of medicine. This omission can easily be rectified, and it will be in the interests of English medicine and English manufacturers to see that it is rectified as soon as possible. Equally important is it that British graduate study organisations should be represented at the Budapest Conference, to take their part in the discussion and to join the international committee for the promotion of graduate study in medicine and dentistry which it is proposed to form. We take it for granted that none of our readers will join issue with us on the statement that the promotion of graduate study in medicine and dentistry is a matter that is of primary importance in England as it has been found in other countries. The question of the relative value of the medical student's education is not one that need concern

us here, for the fact remains that, no matter how well educated the student has been, he is unable to keep up his knowledge in the course of a busy life of private practice, or to remain in touch, unless he is connected as a teacher with one of the large medical schools, with the most recent advances in medicine. Equally true is it that a large number of general practitioners will gladly avail themselves of any opportunities offered them for increasing their knowledge, so long as these opportunities are given on lines similar to those which exist in Germany. That is to say, the three primary considerations that constitute the ideal—the courses should be absolutely free, given at times and places suitable for the man engaged in general practice, and essentially practitioners' and not students' courses—should be paramount. We need not labour these points, but it may be permitted here briefly to consider the manner in which such an ideal may be realised in England, and to take advantage of the lessons to be gained from a consideration of the German system.

The desirability of having a central institution which would serve as a general bureau and as the headquarters of any organisation, seems to us to be obvious. That such a central institution should be evolved out of any already existing organisation, associated with any particular hospital, college, or medical school is scarcely to be expected, nor, indeed, is it to be wished for. A movement in which the whole Empire should participate is not to be made to serve as a splendid advertisement for any particular institution or school ; nor, again, is it to be localised in a place such as Oxford or Cambridge, whose associations with medicine are far less well known or generally recognised than those of our larger cities. The site for such an institution should be the Metropolis, but it should form branches, locally independent but in close touch with the headquarters, at various extra-metropolitan centres where sufficient material exists and sufficient interest is displayed to warrant the

establishment of regular or periodical graduate courses. Such an institution, modelled on the lines of the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus in Berlin, and managed by as representative a board as that which looks after the latter institution, would serve many useful purposes, the enumeration of which need not be given here. Nor would its elaboration entail a colossal or extraordinary expense. The Berlin institution was built, equipped, and rendered practically self-supporting at a total cost of less than £60,000; the Helene Paulowna Institute was built and equipped at an even smaller sum, although it is annually receiving a State grant in its support. Making due allowance for the increased cost of labour and material in England, one may put the total cost of a similar institution in London at £100,000—a sum which is by no means excessive in view of the extended usefulness of such an institution. As in Berlin, the London institution with proper management can be made to be self-supporting. The question of State aid is one that we need not go into here, but we would merely point out that such an institution would deserve, for obvious reasons, the warm support of the Colonies and the equally cordial support of the various municipalities. At this time, when the medical inspection of school children is prominently before the public, and when, as we pointed out recently, the reform of the dental profession is imminent, the value of the services that such an institution can render to the nation is incalculable.

In order to bring it into being there is needed the interest of the medical profession more than an appeal to the generosity of the public. The main persons concerned directly in the promotion of graduate study are the practitioners themselves, and from them, and from the leaders of the profession must come the initiative in any movement that may lead to the establishment of such an organisation. The success which has been obtained in Germany would not have been won unless the medical profession there had

energetically and actively interested themselves in the scheme, and by their endeavours stirred up the public to assist in the venture. On similar lines, any movement initiated here must be developed. We do not doubt that once such a movement is started, whole heartedly, sincerely, and unconnected with any particular association, hospital, or already existing body, it will achieve success and win for the general practitioner in England as fine an organisation and an institution as to-day exist in Germany. The proposal, made some years ago, to establish a post-graduate school in connection with a special academy for the study of comparative medicine is one which we energetically and emphatically must refuse to consider. We admit fully that a school of comparative medicine is an urgent desirability—though we do not admit that Cambridge or Oxford has a prior claim to it than London or Liverpool—but to make such a school an adjunct to an institution which must, if it wishes to adhere to the ideal of post-graduate study, rigidly exclude the unqualified student, is to stultify the usefulness of the latter. The separation of qualified from unqualified students in the German courses is one of the most praiseworthy features of the German system, and it is a feature which should be the dominant one in any system of graduate study.

Such a movement as we have attempted to outline is worthy the cordial support of Royalty. His Majesty the King and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales have shown themselves in warm sympathy with the development of medical study, and have repeatedly given proof of their interest in matters connected with the profession. Their interest in the post-graduate study movement, seeing that it concerns no individual hospital or university but affects the mass of the profession, and indirectly the welfare of the whole community, will be an impartial and general interest which can only serve to encourage and stimulate those who are working to attain to the success which has crowned the German example.